

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

Claims 16-19, 25-35, 38, 40-43, 46 and 47 remain in this application. Claims 36 and 37 were canceled in this amendment. Applicants believe that no new matter is added to the application as part of this response.

1. Amendments

Claim 25 has been rewritten to recite that the laser beam is output from a 193 nm excimer laser or a 248 nm excimer laser. As such, claim 25 now claims the subject matter of previous claims 36 and 37. Claims 36 and 37 have been canceled.

The order of subelements in the second element in claim 25 has been reversed for greater clarity.

2. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 16-19, 40, 42 and 46.

3. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 25-35, 38, 41, 43 and 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seiki (JP 10-288799).

Claim 25 has been rewritten to recite the limitations of claims 36 and 37 in the alternative, and so now claims the subject matter of previous claims 36 and 37. The Examiner indicated that claims 36 and 37 consisted of allowable subject matter (February 2004 Office Action, page 2). As such, Applicant believes that claim 25 is now in allowable form

Claims 26-35, 38, 41, 43 and 47 depend ultimately from claim 25, and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 25.

Applicant therefore requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of claims 25-35, 38, 41, 43 and 47.

4. Conclusion

Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of record, Applicant believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the cited references. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims and prompt further action thereon.

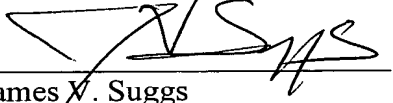
Applicant believes that no extension of time is necessary to make this Response timely. Should Applicant be in error, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to James V. Suggs at 607/974-3606.

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Respectfully submitted,

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